



# DFIRS NEWS

## Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System

Volume 2, Issue 4

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### Starting 2002 out right!

Upon completion of the January DFIRS training, 20 departments will be active electronic DFIRS participants. This participation level places the State of Delaware in line with the June 2002 goal of 50% department participation.

As previously published, the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) standard for the State of Delaware is NFIRS 5.0. While your department may document fire incidents in a third-party software or on paper format, this information has to be electronically transferred to the National database.

If you have a third-party software simply follow your vendors instructions and export your incident information. E-mail or send a diskette to our office for processing.

If you currently do not have a software program in place, please contact Crystal Beach for further assistance.

### Follow up message from the Program Manager

At the end of October, a DFIRS Fire Department Assessment Form was mailed to each department Chief. The purpose of this form is to obtain department information relating to incident reporting. This information is **essential** in order to offer the proper assistance to the local fire departments.

The following departments have not completed and returned the DFIRS Fire Department Assessment Form:

- Belvedere Fire Co
- Bowers Fire Co
- Good-Will Fire Co #1
- Gumboro Volunteer Fire Co
- Hockessin Fire Co
- Holloway Terrace Vol Fire Co
- Memorial Fire Co Inc
- Minquas Fire Co #1 Inc
- Port Penn Volunteer Fire Co
- Talleyville Fire Co
- Wilmington Manor Vol Fire Co

This time of year is hectic for everyone. However, if your department name is listed please complete and return the Assessment Form as soon as possible. If your form has been misplaced a new form can be obtained by contacting Crystal Beach at (302) 739-5665 or via the Internet at:

<http://www.delawarestatefiremarshal.com/dfirsinfo.htm>

### DFIRS training schedule

The first DFIRS class scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> is completely filled. However, additional classes will be forming in the near future. DFIRS training schedules will be announced in this Newsletter and on the DFIRS web site.

### Frequently asked questions?

What is NFIRS?

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-498) authorizes the National Fire Data Center in the United States Fire Administration (USFA) to gather and analyze information on the magnitude of the Nation's fire problem, as well as its detailed characteristics and trends. The Act further authorizes the USFA to develop uniform data reporting methods, and to encourage and assist state agencies in developing and reporting data. In order to carry out the intentions of the Act, the National Fire Data Center has established the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

The NFIRS has two objectives: to help State and local governments develop fire reporting and analysis capability for their own use, and to obtain data that can be used to more accurately assess and subsequently combat the fire problem at a national level.

Every state controls their portion of the National Fire Incident Reporting System. This is where the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System (DFIRS)

## U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES IT WILL CONDUCT FIRE SERVICE NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Release No: 01-252 Release Date: December 11, 2001

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) today announced that it is conducting the first ever U.S. Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey. The USFA expects to begin mailing the needs assessment questionnaire to every fire department across the country beginning the week of December 10th. USFA is a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

"The fire services play a critical role in protecting our communities," said R. David Paulison, U.S. Fire Administrator. "Firefighters -- both career and volunteer -- increasingly serve as first responders nationwide to all types of hazardous and emergency situations, from fire to acute medical emergencies to hazardous material releases, and terrorist attacks such as the tragic events of September 11."

"By completing this short survey and returning it in the postage-paid envelope as soon as possible, fire departments will assist USFA to determine the resource needs of America's fire service."

Earlier in the year USFA began a census of fire departments to provide for the first time an accurate location and points of contact for every fire department in the country. This survey is separate from that census, as it will provide additional information on resources and capabilities of fire departments across the nation in a report to Congress. Survey results will not impact the application and review process for the 2002 grant program. The USFA was directed as part of the FIRE Act, which created the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program, to conduct a needs assessment survey and is doing so with the assistance of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The survey is designed to provide an accurate picture of fire department's resource capabilities nationwide by community size. Departments are encouraged to be looking for the form and filling it out late this year and early next year. It is estimated that the form on average should take about 20 minutes to fill out.

A summary report of the survey findings prepared for Congress will be available on the USFA website in the latter half of 2002. NFPA and the USFA will release only aggregated data from the survey; fire department's individual responses will be kept confidential.

comes into play. Basically, DFIRS is Delaware's segment of the larger NFIRS database.

The National Fire Incident Reporting System is a model of success for Federal, State and local partnership. The database constitutes the world's largest, national, annual collection of incident information.

## Congratulations!

### The following departments are active electronic DFIRS participants:

1. Indian River Volunteer Fire Co
2. Lewes Fire Department Inc
3. Bethany Beach Fire Co
4. Little Creek Volunteer Fire Co
5. **Elsmere Fire Co #1 Inc**
6. **Citizen's Hose Co #1 Inc**
7. **Volunteer Hose Co**
8. **Dover Robbins Hose Co #1 Inc**

**Departments in bold indicate participation since last published newsletter.**

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*For more information regarding the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System (DFIRS), please contact Crystal Beach at 302-739-5665 or cbeach@state.de.us*

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**PLEASE POST FOR ALL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS**